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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 AGRE-00 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAB-02
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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4575
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
HQ USSOUTHCOM SCJ-2

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 4088

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A) SHUM, PGOV, PINT, UY
SUBJ: TODMAN VISIT - FOREIGN MINISTER'S WORKING LUNCHEON

1. SUMMARY. LONG WORKING LUNCHEON OF APPROXIMATELY FOUR HOURS PRODUCED EXTENSIVE GIVE AND TAKE ON BOTH SIDES WITH URUGUAYAN PARTICIPANTS RAISING AGIN THEIR JUSTIFICATION FOR POLITICAL AND MILITARY ACTIONS IN 1972 AND THERAFTER. THEY STRESSED APPARENT CONTRADICTIONS IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, WHAT THEY VIEWED AS UNBALANCED APPLICATION OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS THAT RELATE TO INTEGRITY OF THE PERS ON. SPEAKERS
WERE IMPASSIONED IN TONE AND URUGUAYAN PARTICIPANTS SEEM TO HAVE COME AWAY WITH IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAD SCORED WELL.
END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA'S FOUR-HOUR WORKING LUNCH AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 18 INCLUDED MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES, SEVERAL HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (THEY DID NOT SPEAK), SEVERAL HIGH MEDIA REPS AND ONE U.S. BUSINESSMAN.
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U.S. SIDE INCLUDED THE AMBASSADOR, LISTER, O'MAHONY, DCM, YOULE AND DAO. SUBSTANTIVE
PART OF THIS AFFAIR TOOK PLACE AFTER LUNCH. DURING POST-LUNCHEON MEETING, TODMAN GAVE COMPLETE EXPOSITION OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA AND MADE CLEAR THAT WE VIEWED THAT COUNTRY AS MAJOR VIOLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS. TODMAN ALSO DEVOED SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF TIME TO ALL ASPECTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS SPECIFIED IN CHRISTOPHER

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SPEECH--INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON,SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, HEALTH,
RIGHT TO WORK, OPPORTUNITY TO VOCIE OPINIONS WITHOUT FEAR
AND PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL PROCESS. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT NO
COUNTRY COULD LIVE FOR LONG IN AN ARMED ENCAMPMENT WITHOUT DOING
GREAT HARM TO PRINCIPLES SHSARED BY BOTH COUNTRIES. HE ASKED FOR
FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE STEPS THAT WOULD BE TAKEN BETWEEN
NOW AND 1981 TO PREPARE FOR AND HOLD THE ANNOUNCED ELECTIONS.

3. AIR FORCE BRIGADIRES BORAD AND BENDAHAN WERE MOST OUTSPOKEN
AND DOMINATED MOST OF THE DISCUSSION. BOTH SPOKE TO WHAT THEY VIEWED
AS CONTRADICTIONS IN U.S. POLICY, DESERTING FRIENDS IN THEIR
HOUR OF GREATEST NEED, AND FAILURE TO APPECECIATE THAT DETENTE
HADDEMONSTRATED THAT IT WORKED MORE TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE
SOVIET UNION THAN U.S. AND ITS ALLIES. ON ELECTIONS, BORAD SAID
THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO BRIEF TODMAN ON THE STEPS
BETWEEN NOW AND AND 1981 SINCE THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE
INFORMED FIRST. TODMAN RELOIED THAT HE REGRETTED THIS RESPONSE
SINCE THIS WAS AFTER ALL A PRIVATE MEETING AND THE SUBJECT WAS AN
AN IMPORTANT ONE. GENERAL GREGORIO ALVAREZ EXPRESSED VIEW
THAT U.S. "MORALISTIC" STANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS WAVED IN ONE
HAND AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE BUT THEN APPLIED UNEVENLY AS IT SUITED
OUR INTERESTS. MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE ARISMENDI COMMENTED
THAT IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT U.S. POLICY WAS DIRECTED MOR AT
"THIRD BASKET" OF HUMAN RIGHTS, I.E. STRESS ON RETURN TO
DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT, THAN ON OTHER TWO PRINCIPLES ABOUT
WHICH TODMAN HAD TALKED. BRIGADIER CARDOSO, SECRETARY OF PLANNING,
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COORDINATION AND INFORMATION, GAVE LONG DEFENSE OF URUGUAY'S
ACTIONS IN FACE OF SUBVERSION AND BREAKDOWN OF DEMOCRACY AND
COMMENTED THAT HE HOPED WHAT TODMAN WOULD LEARN DURING HIS
VISIT WOULD START WITH A DROP OF WATER AND THEN TURN INTO A
RIVER OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE URUGUAYAN REALITY. IN OTHER
WORDS, THEY WERE RIGHT, WERE MISUNDERSTOOD AND IT WAS UP TO
US TO CORRECT OUR PERCEPTIONS. ONE MEDIA REP CRITICIZED U.S.
RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF URUGUAYAN BEEF AND REQUESTED USG
AT LEAST TO HELP TO GET GREATER ACCEPTANCE IN EUROPEAN
AND OTHER MARKETS.

4. TODMAN AGAIN DEFENDED OUR POLICIES TOWARD CUBA EXPLAINGIN
THAT EXACTLY BECAUSE THERE WERE ENORMOUS DIFFICULTIES TO BE
OVERCOME WE CONSIDERED IT VITAL TO BE ABLE TO BE ON THE SPOT SO AS TO
WORK
OUT THE MAJOR PROBLEMS THAT FACED US THERE. HE COUNTERED ARGUMENT
THAT DETENTE WORKED ONLY TO ADVANTAGE OF SOVIETS. HE RETURNED
TO HUMAN RIGHTS THEME AGAIN EXPLAINING OUR STANCE AND THE NEED FOR
THEM TO TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE AND
INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. HE
AGREED THAT IT WAS COMPLICATED POLICY ISSUE, BUT ARGUED THAT
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN VARIOUSCOUNTRIES DICTATED MANNER IN

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WHICH ISSUES SHOULD BE APPROACHED. THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT
POLICY WAS BEING APPLIED IN DISCRIMINATORY MANNER OR SELECTIVELY.
RPINCIPLES REMAINED AS MAJOR THRUST OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION.
TODMAN ALSO STRESSED NEED FOR CONTINUING DIALOGUE
WITH LATIN AMERICA ON MAJOR WORLD ISSUES. ADMITTED WE HAD NOT
DONE WELL ON THIS IN PAST.

5. COMMENT: FOLLOWING BORAD'S RATHER FLAT-END REFUSAL TO EXPLAIN
THE STEPS PLANNED TO PREPARE THE COUNTRY FOR ELECTIONS IN 1981,
OTHERS, INCLUDING GENERAL ALVAREZ, SOMEWHAT EMBARASSED
THAT TODMAN'S QUESTION HAD NOT BEEN ADDRESSED, ATTEMPTED
ANSWERS. THEIR ATTEMPTS, HOWEVER, SHED LITTLE LIGHT ON WHETHER
THE GOU HIGH COMMAND HAS REALLY CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE SUBJECT.
LATER AT DINNER ARMY CINC VADORA STATED THAT THERE IS A
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DETAILED PLAN WORKED OUT WHICH WILL PERMIT DISCUSSION AND
CRITICISM OF ECONOMIC MATTERS FIRST, FOLLOWED LATER IN
ABOUT TWO YEARS OF OPENING ON POLITICAL FRONT.

6. CLEARED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MONTEV04088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770306-0774
Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1501665
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TODMAN VISIT - FOREIGN MINISTER\'S WORKING LUNCHEON
TAGS: OVIP, SHUM, PGOV, PINT, UY, (TODMAN, TERENCE A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/13321054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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